

## FOSSIL BEETLE ELYTRA

BY T. D. A. COCKERELL

Boulder, Colorado

Mr. Darlington's remarks in the September *Psyche* suggest that it may be useful to make a further statement as follows:

(1.) Beetle elytra are of value for stratigraphy, because they are present in many different rocks, and often in considerable numbers. The faunæ are recognizable if well figured, and the species are not too few.

(2.) Fossil elytra are also of value as showing the amount of diversification of these structures in different periods, and especially the antiquity of various characters or structures.

These two reasons seem to me to justify the description and naming of fossil elytra.

(3.) On the other hand, in the majority of cases it is impossible to refer the elytra to definite genera, or in some instances to definite families. Thus a species may be recognizable though its generic position is unknown. In all such cases it seems best to use "blanket-genera," such as *Carabites*, rather than to refer the species to numerous supposedly extinct genera, which cannot be accurately defined.

(4.) It is however probable that when students intensively investigate the elytral structures of modern beetles, many more good generic characters will be found than are now known to exist. If so, it may be possible to return to the fossils, and feel some assurance of their correct position.

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**PARATENETUS CRINITUS FALL**

Sherborn, Mass., has furnished another surprise, or rather several of them, in five or six specimens of what appears to be the above species which was described from New Mexico. At least three of the specimens were taken by sifting. The dates of capture are:—May 11, 1913; May 2,

1915; April 4, 1916; April 9, 1925; November 7, 1926. A specimen was seen in a lot of beetles submitted for determination by Mr. A. P. Morse of Wellesley; this was also taken in Sherborn. This species is easily distinguished by its darker color and the long hairs of the elytra; all my examples are smaller than the general run of specimens of the other species. A specimen was sent to Mr. Fall who states that it appears to be the same as the N. M. type, in spite of the locality.

C. A. FROST, Framingham, Mass.

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#### NOTE ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF TWO SPECIES OF COLEOPTERA<sup>1</sup>

BY ELIZABETH W. KINGSBURY

It seems worth while to place on record the following data concerning two species of Coleoptera. I am indebted to Mr. C. A. Frost for kindly identifying the specimens.

##### *Chrysobothris verdigripennis* Frost (Buprestidæ)

This species was described from Maine, and only the original locality is cited in Leng's Catalogue. Mr. Frost has no previous record of its having been found west of Ontario. I captured a female specimen at Buffalo, Wyoming, on July 24, 1929, at an altitude of about 7500 feet.

##### *Uloma punctulata* Leconte (Tenebrionidæ)

This species is recorded in Smith's list of New Jersey insects (1910), but the most eastern locality given in Leng's Catalogue is Indiana. On March 26, 1929, I found one individual under the bark of a pine log at Lakehurst, New Jersey, thus confirming Smith's record.

<sup>1</sup>Contributions from the Department of Zoology, Smith College, No. 162.